

NOTES Charlene McGowan

1. She called office at 10:42 Thursday, 12/3/21. Left message to call 1-404-458-3658
2. Returned call Friday morning at about 12:00. Left message to call office or cell phone.
3. She called at about 1:50 pm. Talked for about 20 minutes.
 - She started by introducing herself, attorney from Ga. Attorney General's office representing State Elections Board.
 - Calling reference Joe Rossi's calls to Ms. Sullivan. She wanted to assure me that an investigation would be held on the matter.
 - I said we were concerned about an independent investigation. How can the SOS office investigate itself?
 - Her response, the investigation would essentially be of Fulton County since that is where the errors were generated. I agreed that Fulton County appeared to have made the errors, but that since the SOS has responsibility for elections it is also responsible for the errors. She said no, the County BOE does not report to the SOS so the SOS is not responsible.
 - But, again, since the SOS has election responsibility doesn't that make it responsible. Again no.
 - I then posed the issue of the audit results being on the SOS website and that they were incorrect. She again said that the SOS was not responsible, the counties were.
 - I brought up the issue of the SOS certifying the election results, thus it was ultimately responsible for the vote counts. Her response: the SOS was just certifying that the counties had themselves certified the vote count, not that the SOS was certifying the results.
4. I asked her if the investigation had started yet, she did not know.
5. I asked her if an investigator had been appointed, she did not know. I asked her to call me with that information, she said she would.
6. The purpose of her call was apparently to convince me that the SOS has no responsibility for the errors exposed in Fulton County. I said Mr. Rossi and I believe the SOS has the ultimate responsibility, thus we disagree on the issue of responsibility.
7. Georgia Constitution & Laws (not discussed with Ms. McGowan)
 - Georgia Constitution instructs legislature to pass laws to have voting results sent to the SOS.
 - OCGA 21-2-50(6) requires the SOS to receive and count votes
 - OCGA 21-2-50(15)(b) characterizes the SOS as the "state's chief election official."
8. Important Code Section. OCGA 21-2-499(a) requires the SOS to notify a county if an error is found in the county's certified returns and direct the county to correct the error and recertify the results.